

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 1987



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Mr. Dominick J. Sanchini, Rockwell International  
Mr. Earl Whiteman, U.S. Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Plant  
P.O. Box 464  
Golden, Colorado 80402

Dear Messrs. Sanchini and Whiteman:

Thank you for Rockwell's comments, forwarded by Pat Etchart, on the text of my proposal for an independent panel to review the incineration of mixed wastes at Rocky Flats. I appreciate the constructive manner in which Rockwell has reacted to the proposal.

As you probably know, the Arvada, Broomfield, and Westminster city councils, and the Adams County, Boulder County and Jefferson County boards of county commissioners have agreed to the proposal. I have been working to recruit panel members so the panel can start as soon as possible and complete its work in a timely manner. This week I circulated a list of candidates for the panel to the sponsoring local governments, with a request for their reactions by the end of the day on Monday, April 27. I expect to select the panelists shortly.

Even with the progress that is being made, it is clear that the panel could not complete its work with respect to the trial incineration before the trial is now scheduled to occur. Given these circumstances, I have to request that you delay the trial until the panel has had adequate opportunity to review the proposal for the trial incineration, to advise whether and under what conditions the trial should proceed consistent with public health and safety, and to make arrangements to observe the trial if necessary. I am aware of the need to resolve the problem of accumulating mixed wastes at the plant and will do everything possible to ensure that the panel expedites its work. After naming the panel members, I will direct them to determine as rapidly as possible a timeline for their review of the test, so that you can plan accordingly. In the meantime, I appreciate your assistance in helping to ensure that the review panel can properly perform its mission.

Governor Romer is today making his own request for a delay in the test. He and I have consulted about this situation, and we each support the other's request. Since there is substantial public interest and concern about this issue, I will release this letter tomorrow.

Thank you again for your interest and cooperation in this important effort.

Sincerely yours,

*David Skaggs*  
David E. Skaggs

ADMIN RECORD

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